

October 26, 1999

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 5:31 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 1999, in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Cribbs, Horwich, Lee, Messerlian, O'Donnell, Walker, and Mayor Hardison.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

Agenda Item No. 16 was considered out of order at this time.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Hardison announced that subsequent to the posting of the agenda on Thursday, October 21, 1999, the City Manager's office received an additional proposal from Mr. and Mrs. Brandt regarding acquisition of the property located at 1256-1266 Sartori Avenue in the City of Torrance. As it was necessary for the Redevelopment Agency to take immediate action in order to provide instructions to the City's property negotiator as to how to proceed, a motion was made and passed by unanimous roll call vote to add the item to the agenda per Government Code Section 54956.8 and consider this matter during executive session.

At 7:10 p.m., the Council returned to open session.

Mayor Hardison announced that subsequent to the posting of the agenda on Thursday, October 21, 1999, City staff received information that the Torrance Youth Council desires to hold its annual retreat at "The Attic." In order for Council to take action on a matter that is not on the agenda, the California Government Code requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Council that immediate action is necessary and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

MOTION: Councilmember Horwich moved to add the item to the Consent Calendar as Item 71 pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

Mr. Richard Tsao, Cable Advisory Commission, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Paul Buono, South Bay Vineyard Christian Fellowship, gave the invocation for the meeting.

3. **AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING/WAIVE FURTHER READING**

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and, there being no objection, it was so ordered by Mayor Hardison.

4. **WITHDRAWN/DEFERRED ITEMS**

None.

5. **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members of the public were invited to place telephone calls or send messages via email to comment on issues not on the evening's agenda. Comments on the evening's agenda were to be made in person as the item comes before the City Council.

Mayor Hardison invited the public to begin calling to make comments and/or ask questions on any matter not on tonight's agenda beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Fire Chief Bongard announced that Mobil Oil would be conducting their final testing of the siren on Wednesday, October 27, 1999, 11:30 a.m.–12:00 noon and on Thursday, November 4, 1999, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon.

City Clerk Herbers reminded citizens to vote on November 2 with the polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Voters were urged to check polling location carefully as they may have been changed. City Clerk staff would be available for telephone assistance on Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

6a. **PROCLAMATION RE "TOASTMASTERS MONTH"**

Mayor Hardison presented a proclamation declaring the month of November 1999 as "Toastmasters Month" in the City of Torrance to Earl Mealins, President, Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club.

6b. **PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Policy Board that City Council appoint and officially swear in Ida Rivera, Stephen Flinn and Frank Quiambao to the Carson/Lomita/Torrance Private Industry Council (C/L/T PIC).

MOTION: Councilmember Cribbs moved to concur with the recommendation of the Policy Board of PIC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Messerlian and passed by unanimous roll call vote. City Clerk Herbers administered the Oath to all of the appointees.

7. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

7a. **INVESTMENT REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1999**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the investment report for the month of September, 1999.

7b. **LIBRARY COMMISSION 1998-99 ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Librarian that City Council accept and file the 1998-99 Library Commission Annual Report.

7c. **TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING 1998-99 ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council accept and file the 1998-99 Torrance Commission on Aging Annual Report.

7d. **PURCHASE ORDER RE SUPER CAB AND CHASSIS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Fire Chief that City Council authorize a purchase order in the amount of \$28,277.66 to Peyton Cramer Ford, Torrance, CA for the purchase of one (1) Ford F-350 Super Duty Super Cab and Chassis.

7e. **JTPA AGREEMENT WITH EL CAMINO COLLEGE**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council execute an amendment that adds \$158,170 to agreement C99-186 for additional employment and training services with El Camino Community College District for a new agreement total of \$553,170.

7f. **QUITCLAIM DEED RE OLSON COMPANY PROJECT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Planning Director that City Council direct the Mayor and the City Manager to execute a quitclaim deed and quitclaim deed escrow instructions to finalize the implementation of Phase II of the Olson Company Project on Tommy's Restaurant and Rendezvous in the Downtown Torrance Redevelopment Project Area.

7g. **REJECT BID WHEELCHAIR LIFTS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council reject the single bid received for the removal and installation of wheelchair lifts project.

7h. **OES AGREEMENT FOR PREPARATION FOR Y2K**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Fire Chief that City Council allow the Fire Department to enter into a contract with the State Office of Emergency Services in the amount of \$37,000. The agreement requires the Fire Department to assist the State in surveying hazardous materials users in the City in their preparation for Y2K. The agreement is to run from August, 1999, to March 31, 2000.

7i. **AGREEMENT RE JTPA EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council authorize the execution of an agreement with the City of Los Angeles to provide employment and training services for \$1,400,000 from July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

7j. **CONTRACT AMENDMENT KIOSK MAINTENANCE TOUCHMEDIA AUTHORIZATION RE JTPA CONTRACT PERIOD**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council execute an amendment that extends the PIC Kiosk Maintenance Agreement (C98-272) with TouchMedia, a division of High Technology Solutions Inc., through June 30, 2000 without adding funding to the original contract amount of \$30,000.

7k. **CONSULTING SERVICES WITH JOHN POWERS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council approve a contract with John Powers, Consultant, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for the following services:

- 1) \$20,000 for Multidisciplinary Programs;
- 2) \$10,000 for Wild Wednesdays; and
- \$20,000 for Special Projects.

7l. **TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL ANNUAL RETREAT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Director that City Council grant permission to the Torrance Youth Council to conduct their annual retreat at The ATTIC, 2320 West Carson Street, Torrance.

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A portion of Agenda Item No. 15 was considered out of order at this time.

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the public were invited to participate in the Great City Hall Tune-In by placing telephone calls to (310) 618-2455 or sending email to CouncilLive@Torrnet.com between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. to comment on issues not on the evening's agenda.

- a. Frank Rizzardi (email): Who is responsible for enforcing DMV in the California Code on handicapped parking? There are large numbers of individuals using these stalls in public malls.

Police Chief Herren indicated that the Police Department was responsible for parking enforcement and that in many instances, calls to the station may result in citations.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to the number of designated handicapped parking spaces, Building and Safety Director Isomoto indicated that there is a ratio of handicapped parking spaces to regular spaces that must be available.

City Attorney Fellows reported that his office also reviews appeals on parking ticket matters and does receive appeals indicating an active enforcement program.

- b. Suzanne Thibideau (telephone): In the area of Torrance Boulevard, west of Bishop Montgomery, there is a serious problem in the morning when parents and teenage drivers make a U-turn in front of her complex even though there is a "No U-turn" sign west of the high school.

Police Chief Herren indicated that it is illegal to make a U-turn in that area. He further related the need to focus and make a more concerted effort to enforce the traffic laws in that area.

- c. Nat Wilson (email): When is the City of Torrance going to do something about the sale of vehicles on public streets?

City Manager Jackson indicated that this is a continuing problem since the curb line is public. He further noted that if a vehicle is left 72 hours in a single location, the City can ticket the vehicle.

City Attorney Fellows noted a California Vehicle Code Section would allow the city to adopt enforcement of a State of California ordinance which entails a two-step process: (1) sign; and (2) tow. He indicated that the City was currently exploring the possibility of adoption of this ordinance.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to the handicapped parking fine, City Attorney Fellows indicated that it was \$250.00 fine and penalty.

- d. Betty Simpson, 1703 W. 238th Street, (phone): There is a need for more police patrol at the intersection of 238th Street and Western Avenue and the signal takes three minutes to change.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to whether Western Avenue is the City of Los Angeles, Street Services Director Bell indicated that the traffic signal was not located in the City of Torrance and Police Chief Herren indicated that police enforcement would be provided.

- e. Gary Simpson (email): Concern with downtown redevelopment process.

Planning Manager Bihn discussed the downtown redevelopment .

- f. Tomi Hatanala (phone): There is a need for assistance to stop speeding cars on 238th Street, near Western who are in excess of the 25 mph speed limit and improving the intersection of 238th and Western.

Mayor Hardison indicated that the previous caller had already informed Council of the problem and Police Chief Herren related that a radar trailer will be parked in the area to help motorists realize their excessive speeds.

- g. Michael Shapiro (email): I would like to know what the City can do so we can get better Cable channels.

Cable TV Administrator Smith indicated that they were currently working with Time Warner on this issue as Time Warner controls channel selections and that by January 1, 2000, additional channels may be offered.

- h. Ben Wallace, New Horizons, Maple Avenue, (phone): noted that he feels that the recently completed traffic calming measures on Maple and 235th Streets have not improved the situation and that there is a need for more police enforcement on Maple Avenue and 235th Street for excessive speeds.

Mayor Hardison related that recent counts on traffic indicated that people were moving slower in this area. Police Chief Herren agreed that speeds have slowed somewhat, and officers will be assigned to patrol and cite speed limit violators.

Planning Director Gibson noted that analysis of this area indicated a significant reduction in violations of the speed limit but another analysis could be done.

- i. Sarheen Khan (phone) : Annoyed with traffic at 238th Street and Western Avenue.

Mayor Hardison related that two previous callers had already reported on this issue, and City Manager Jackson indicated that the first four houses in from 238th Street on Western Avenue are under the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles.

- j. Joyce Shapiro (email): Are the changes within Del Amo Mall going to produce new places in which to shop?

City Manager Jackson indicated that they were in discussions with the management at Del Amo Mall and that there will be a new JoAnn's on the first floor and that the north area of the mall has future changes in the works with major refurbishing taking place near Wards.

- k. Joseph Azim (audience) offered advice to those having concerns about traffic at 238th and Western
- l. Mayor Hardison thanked all of the people who called in and emailed. She related that the City of Torrance attempts to be open and provides accessible government, which makes Torrance unique.

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11. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

11a. **2000 AIR FAIR AGREEMENT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the General Services Director and the Airport Commission that City Council approve the 2000 Air Fair Agreement between the City of Torrance and the Torrance Air Fair Association (TAFA), for the Air Fair to be conducted at Zamperini Field on July 15 and 16, 2000. The Airport Commission further recommends that City Council give consideration to adjusting the City's contribution to the 2000 Torrance Air Fair pursuant to discussions with TAFA.

Mayor Hardison indicated that the City of Torrance is spending nearly \$40,000 in general support for the Air Fair.

Ms. Nancy Clinton, Torrance Air Fair Association, pointed out numerous changes that had been made within the Agreement that she had not seen previously.

City Manager Jackson requested that the item be pulled so that additional information concerning this item could be provided at a later date.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to consider item at a later date when further information is available. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11b. **INCREASE HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING DIVISION POSITIONS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Human Resources Director that City Council approve the request to increase authorized positions for the Employment and Training Division from 76 to 92.5 professional staff and authorizes the City of Torrance to assume costs of approximately \$40,000.

Human Resources Director Winer pointed out that this was a grant authorizing the new positions.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to whether the City was assuming costs for the City of Los Angeles, Employment & Training Manager Unangst indicated that costs would be assumed but carefully monitored.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to concur with staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Cribbs and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11c. **INCREASE BUS OPERATOR POSITIONS**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Transit Director that City Council authorize the addition of two permanent Bus Operator positions in the Transit Department and to temporarily overfill two Bus Operator positions for a period of one year.

Transportation Director Whittle made a brief presentation. In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to whether staffing requirements would change if bus runs were canceled, Transportation Director Whittle indicated that it seldom happens wherein an entire run is canceled, only partial runs. He further pointed out that no one would get laid off, and that all of the runs are filled.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to authorize additional staffing recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

11d. **CONSIDERATION RE COUNCIL DARK NIGHT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council consider Tuesday, November 2, 1999 as a Council dark night.

MOTION: Councilmember Walker moved to declare Tuesday, November 2, 1999 as a Council dark night. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lee and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. **HEARINGS**

12a. **CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION RE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Planning Director and the Planning Commission that City Council take the following actions with respect to four residential properties located on the south side of Sonoma Street between the alleys east and west of Madrid Avenue at 2318, 2326, 2358, and 2360 Sonoma Street:

- 1) Adopt a negative declaration;
- 2) Adopt a **RESOLUTION** amending the 1992 General Plan Land Use Map to change the land use designation from "Medium Density Residential" to "Low-Medium Density Residential;" and

- 3) Adopt an **ORDINANCE** amending the "Official Land Use Map" in Division 9 of the Torrance Municipal Code to change the zoning from R-3: Limited Family Residential to R-2: Two Family Residential.
(GPA99-0002, ZON99-0003, EAS99-0005: City of Torrance)

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for the public hearing on this matter, and City Clerk Herbers verified that the hearing was properly advertised.

In response to Mayor Hardison's inquiry as to whether all the lots were less than 5,000 square feet, Planning Manager Tate indicated that three of the lots are less than 5,000 square feet and one is 6,000 square feet.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to adopt a negative declaration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember O'Donnell and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-118

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING THE LAND USE MAP OF THE GENERAL PLAN ADOPTED OCTOBER 27, 1992, BY RESOLUTION 92-172, AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 34 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO CHANGE THE LAND USE DESIGNATION FROM "MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL" TO "LOW-MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL" OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 2360, 2358, 2326 AND 2318 SONOMA STREET.

MOTION: City Clerk Herbers read aloud the number and title for Resolution 99-118 and Councilmember Messerlian moved for its adoption and concurred with staff recommendations. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3475

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING A ZONE CHANGE FROM R-3 (MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) TO R-2 (TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT) OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 2360, 2358, 2326 AND 2318 SONOMA STREET

MOTION: Councilmember Messerlian moved for approval of Ordinance 3475. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12b. **PUBLIC HEARING**
ORDERING VACATION OF PORTION OF MADRID AVENUE

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Engineering Director that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing ordering the vacation of a portion of the east side of Madrona Avenue between Torrance Boulevard and Opal Street; and
- 2) Approve and adopt a **RESOLUTION** ordering the vacation.

Mayor Hardison announced that this was the time, date and place for the public hearing on this matter, and City Clerk Herbers verified that the hearing was properly advertised.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 99-119

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
TORRANCE ORDERING THE VACATION OF A PORTION
OF THE EAST SIDE OF MADRONA AVENUE BETWEEN
TORRANCE BOULEVARD AND OPAL STREET IN THE
CITY OF TORRANCE**

MOTION: City Clerk Herbers read aloud the number and title for Resolution 99-119 and Councilmember Messerlian moved for its adoption. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Horwich and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

13. **APPEALS**

13a. **APPEAL - SIGN CASE S99-001 NORM'S RESTAURANT**

Recommendation

Recommendation of the Director of Building and Safety that City Council deny the appeal and deny the request of Sign Case S99-001 for a 25-foot tall pylon sign for Norms Restaurant.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna indicated that the Environmental Division and the Environmental Quality Commission denied the request for a new 25-foot pole sign, which is taller than the existing building and noted the potential light impact upon the residential neighborhood.

Mr. Sterling Bogart, President of Norms Restaurants, pointed out identical requested sign in Anaheim.

In response to Councilmember Lee's inquiry as to whether a 20-foot sign would be acceptable, Mr. Bogart said he was not sure as he was relying on outside information.

In response to Councilmember Messerlian's inquiry as to how the Torrance location compared to the Downey location, Mr. Bogart indicated that the Downey location was their number one location, with the traffic about two and one-half times what it is in Torrance. He further pointed out that the City of Downey did not let him put up a pole sign.

In response to Councilmember Messerlian's inquiry as to whether roof signs would be a viable alternative, Mr. Bogart indicated that it would not.

Councilmember Walker pointed out that there was not a lot of difference between a 20-foot sign and 25-foot sign within the City and that he could not think of a good reason to vote against this request. He further stated that the sign is a fact of business and he would vote in favor of it.

Councilmember Horwich indicated that a pole sign was okay but that less than 25 feet would be acceptable.

Mayor Hardison pointed out that she had driven by, from east to west, and that she concurred with Councilmember Horwich and was supportive of a pole sign that did not exceed the height of the roof.

Mr. Bogart related signage was very important to a small retailer.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna indicated that if a pole sign were approved, the monument must be replaced.

MOTION: Councilmember Lee moved to approve the appeal and request for a 25-foot sign. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Walker and passed by a 6-1 majority vote with Mayor Hardison dissenting.

15. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

15m. Councilmember Cribbs applauded the recent City of Torrance employees'-sponsored "Way Off Broadway" production.

15n Councilmember Messerlian echoed Councilmember Cribbs remarks and urged everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 2, 1999.

15o. Councilmember O'Donnell announced that the Torrance Rose Float Association Parade tickets are \$65.00 including round trip bus transportation from Wilson Park, and will be available beginning November 1, 1999, 9:00 a.m., with further information available at (310) 618-2930.

15p. Councilmember O'Donnell announced that Holiday Cheer Baskets for low-income seniors were being organized and donations of canned food and personal care items would be accepted through December 16, 1999, Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 p.m., South Bay Senior Office, 3246 West Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 201, information provided at (310) 325-2141.

15q. Councilmember O'Donnell announced that if you have tires you wish to dispose of, they will be collected on Saturday, November 13, 1999, 9:00-3:00 p.m., Sears Auto Center.

15r. Councilmember O'Donnell encouraged everyone to go out and vote.

15s. Councilmember Walker encouraged everyone to vote on Tuesday.

15t. Mayor Hardison thanked Councilmember Messerlian for standing in at the City Talent Show since she was out of the state and encouraged everyone to vote on November 2nd.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Considered earlier in the meeting, see page 1

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:20 p.m., City Council and Redevelopment Agency adjourned to Tuesday, November 9, 1999, at 5:30 p.m. for an Executive Session, with the regular meeting commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Council will not meet on Tuesday, November 2, 1999.

Mayor of the City of Torrance

ATTEST:

Approved on February 8, 2000

Sue Herbers
City Clerk of the City of Torrance